

Table 67 (page 1 of 3). Alcohol consumption by persons 18 years of age and over, according to sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1997–2000

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Alcohol consumption, age, race, and Hispanic origin	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	1997	1999	2000	1997	1999	2000	1997	1999	2000
Drinking status ¹	Percent distribution								
18 years and over, age adjusted ²									
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lifetime abstainer	21.2	22.5	24.1	14.0	14.8	17.5	27.6	29.3	29.9
Former drinker	15.7	15.0	14.4	16.2	15.9	14.9	15.3	14.4	14.2
Infrequent	9.0	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.1	7.0	10.1	9.2	9.2
Regular	6.7	6.8	6.3	8.5	8.8	7.8	5.2	5.2	5.0
Current drinker	63.1	62.5	61.5	69.8	69.3	67.7	57.0	56.3	55.8
Infrequent	15.0	14.3	14.7	11.7	11.0	11.1	18.1	17.4	18.2
Regular	48.1	48.2	46.7	58.1	58.3	56.6	38.9	38.9	37.7
18 years and over, crude									
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lifetime abstainer	21.1	22.4	24.0	14.0	14.7	17.5	27.7	29.4	30.1
Former drinker	15.5	14.9	14.3	15.6	15.3	14.3	15.4	14.5	14.3
Infrequent	8.9	8.1	8.1	7.5	6.9	6.8	10.1	9.3	9.3
Regular	6.6	6.7	6.2	8.1	8.4	7.5	5.2	5.2	5.0
Current drinker	63.4	62.7	61.7	70.5	70.0	68.2	57.0	56.1	55.6
Infrequent	15.0	14.3	14.7	11.7	11.0	11.1	18.1	17.3	18.1
Regular	48.4	48.4	46.9	58.8	59.0	57.2	38.8	38.8	37.5
Age	Percent current drinkers among all persons								
All persons:									
18–44 years	69.4	69.3	67.4	74.8	75.2	73.0	64.2	63.6	61.9
18–24 years	62.2	62.3	59.4	66.7	67.6	64.0	57.7	57.1	54.9
25–44 years	71.6	71.5	69.9	77.2	77.6	76.0	66.1	65.6	64.1
45–64 years	63.3	62.1	62.0	70.8	68.5	68.1	56.2	56.1	56.3
45–54 years	67.1	66.6	65.1	73.8	71.8	70.3	60.7	61.7	60.1
55–64 years	57.3	55.0	57.2	65.8	63.2	64.6	49.4	47.6	50.6
65 years and over	43.4	42.0	42.1	52.7	52.6	50.0	36.6	34.2	36.2
65–74 years	48.6	46.4	46.9	56.7	55.7	52.6	42.0	38.9	42.2
75 years and over	36.6	36.6	36.3	46.7	48.3	46.6	30.2	29.0	29.7
Race ^{2,3}									
White only	66.0	65.5	64.6	71.8	71.6	69.7	60.7	60.1	59.9
Black or African American only	47.8	46.7	46.8	56.9	54.7	56.2	40.9	40.6	39.4
American Indian and Alaska Native only	53.9	49.6	54.2	66.1	56.5	62.6	45.2	43.5	46.9
Asian only	45.8	44.9	43.0	60.1	60.0	55.9	31.6	31.3	29.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2 or more races	---	64.5	61.6	---	71.0	70.5	---	56.0	52.7
Hispanic origin and race ^{2,3}									
Hispanic or Latino	53.4	52.5	52.1	64.6	66.1	63.7	42.1	39.8	41.2
Mexican	53.0	49.7	50.6	66.9	65.9	64.4	38.9	34.3	36.8
Not Hispanic or Latino	#	52.5	52.1	#	66.1	63.7	#	39.8	41.2
White only	67.5	67.0	66.0	72.7	72.2	70.4	62.9	62.4	61.9
Black or African American only	47.8	46.6	46.8	57.1	54.6	56.4	40.7	40.4	39.3
Geographic region ²									
Northeast	68.7	69.6	68.0	74.4	77.0	73.2	63.8	63.4	63.7
Midwest	66.8	66.5	65.6	73.0	71.1	70.7	61.1	62.3	61.1
South	56.2	54.8	54.3	63.9	62.7	62.1	49.2	47.7	47.1
West	64.9	64.2	62.8	71.5	71.7	68.4	58.9	57.2	57.2
Location of residence ²									
Within MSA ⁴	64.7	64.2	63.0	71.0	70.9	69.0	59.1	58.1	57.5
Outside MSA ⁴	57.4	56.4	56.0	65.7	63.8	62.6	49.5	49.7	50.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 67 (page 2 of 3). Alcohol consumption by persons 18 years of age and over, according to sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1997–2000

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Alcohol consumption, age, race, and Hispanic origin	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	1997	1999	2000	1997	1999	2000	1997	1999	2000
Level of alcohol consumption in past year for current drinkers ⁵	Percent distribution of current drinkers								
18 years and over, age adjusted ²									
All drinking levels.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Light.	69.6	68.9	70.6	59.5	58.7	60.4	81.0	80.4	82.0
Moderate	22.5	23.2	22.2	31.8	32.5	32.0	12.0	12.7	11.5
Heavier.	7.9	7.9	7.1	8.7	8.7	7.7	7.0	6.9	6.5
18 years and over, crude									
All drinking levels.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Light.	69.8	69.2	70.8	59.6	58.9	60.5	81.4	80.7	82.3
Moderate	22.3	23.1	22.1	31.7	32.3	31.8	11.7	12.5	11.3
Heavier.	7.9	7.8	7.1	8.8	8.7	7.7	6.9	6.7	6.4
Number of days in the past year with 5 or more drinks	Percent distribution of current drinkers								
18 years and over, crude									
All current drinkers.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No days	65.9	67.2	68.2	54.7	56.7	56.9	78.6	78.9	80.6
At least 1 day	34.1	32.8	31.8	45.3	43.3	43.1	21.4	21.1	19.4
1–11 days	18.5	17.4	17.4	22.0	20.8	21.2	14.6	13.6	13.3
12 or more days.	15.6	15.4	14.4	23.4	22.5	21.9	6.8	7.5	6.1
Hispanic origin, race, and age ³	Percent of persons with 5 or more drinks on at least one day among current drinkers								
All persons:									
18 years and over, age adjusted ²	32.4	30.9	30.3	43.3	41.2	41.2	20.2	19.7	18.5
18 years and over, crude.	34.1	32.8	31.8	45.3	43.3	43.1	21.4	21.1	19.4
18–44 years.	42.4	41.3	40.4	54.6	52.9	52.3	28.7	28.5	27.0
18–24 years	51.6	53.3	52.2	61.5	63.4	60.8	40.2	42.0	42.4
25–44 years	40.0	38.1	37.1	52.8	50.1	49.9	25.7	24.8	22.8
45–64 years.	25.3	24.2	23.5	36.1	34.7	35.0	12.9	12.5	10.8
45–54 years	28.5	26.5	25.5	40.1	37.1	37.9	15.3	15.1	12.0
55–64 years	19.6	19.8	19.9	28.9	30.3	29.9	8.3	7.3	8.7
65 years and over	11.2	9.0	9.1	17.8	13.9	14.8	4.4	3.5	3.4
65–74 years	13.9	10.9	11.3	21.6	16.5	18.3	5.5	4.5	4.2
75 years and over	6.7	6.1	5.8	11.0	9.8	9.5	*2.5	*	*
Race ^{2,3}									
White only.	33.3	31.8	31.0	44.4	42.1	41.8	20.9	20.5	19.2
Black or African American only	23.6	23.5	23.9	31.7	32.8	34.1	14.9	13.8	12.7
American Indian and Alaska Native only	54.5	48.2	45.0	70.5	53.9	47.0	38.4	39.7	34.7
Asian only.	25.5	20.2	20.3	30.7	25.7	25.4	16.6	12.2	10.8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2 or more races.	---	44.9	44.0	---	53.0	53.1	---	30.6	31.5
Hispanic origin and race ^{2,3}									
Hispanic or Latino	36.8	32.1	31.9	46.3	42.0	43.0	22.3	16.5	16.0
Mexican.	39.0	36.8	37.5	50.1	47.2	49.0	20.3	17.3	17.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	#	32.1	31.9	#	42.0	43.0	#	16.5	16.0
White only	33.2	31.9	31.2	44.5	42.3	42.1	21.0	20.9	19.7
Black or African American only.	23.4	23.4	23.8	31.7	32.5	33.8	14.4	13.9	12.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 67 (page 3 of 3). Alcohol consumption by persons 18 years of age and over, according to sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1997–2000

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Alcohol consumption, age, race, and Hispanic origin	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	1997	1999	2000	1997	1999	2000	1997	1999	2000
Percent of persons with 5 or more drinks on at least one day among current drinkers									
Geographic region ²									
Northeast	31.3	29.9	28.9	43.1	39.3	39.7	18.9	20.1	18.1
Midwest	33.8	34.7	33.3	44.7	46.3	44.7	21.6	22.2	21.5
South	30.9	27.4	27.4	40.5	36.7	37.1	19.2	16.4	15.6
West	33.4	33.0	32.0	44.6	43.3	43.1	20.8	21.4	18.8
Location of residence ²									
Within MSA ⁴	31.6	30.6	30.0	42.4	40.7	40.4	19.8	19.4	18.5
Outside MSA ⁴	34.8	32.5	31.3	45.7	42.3	43.1	21.2	21.1	18.5

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of 20–30 percent. Data not shown have a relative standard error of greater than 30 percent.

--- Data not available.

Estimates calculated upon request.

¹Drinking status categories are based on self-reported responses to questions about alcohol consumption. See Appendix II, Alcohol consumption. Lifetime abstainers had fewer than 12 drinks in their lifetime. Former drinkers had at least 12 drinks in their lifetime and none in the past year. Former infrequent drinkers are former drinkers who had fewer than 12 drinks in any one year. Former regular drinkers are former drinkers who had at least 12 drinks in any one year. Current drinkers had 12 drinks in their lifetime and at least one drink in the past year. Current infrequent drinkers are current drinkers who had fewer than 12 drinks in the past year. Current regular drinkers are current drinkers who had at least 12 drinks in the past year.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using four age groups: 18–24 years, 25–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

³Starting with data year 1999, estimates by race and Hispanic origin are tabulated using the 1997 Standards for Federal data on race and ethnicity; prior to data year 1999 the 1977 Standards are used (see Appendix II, Race). Estimates for specific race groups are shown when they meet requirements for statistical reliability and confidentiality. Starting with data year 1999, the categories “White only,” “Black or African American only,” “American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) only,” “Asian only,” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only” include persons who reported only one racial group; and the category “2 or more races” includes persons who reported more than one of the five racial groups in the 1997 Standards or one of the five racial groups and “Some other race.” Prior to data year 1999, estimates for the race categories shown include persons who reported one race or who reported more than one race and identified one race as best representing their race; and the category “Asian only” includes Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Because of the differences between the two Standards, race-specific estimates starting with data year 1999 are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. To estimate change between 1997 and 1999, race-specific estimates for 1999 based on the 1977 Standards can be used. In comparison with the 1999 estimates based on the 1997 Standards, the age-adjusted percent of persons who are current drinkers based on the 1977 Standards are: identical for white men; 0.3 percentage points higher for black men; 1.6 percentage points higher for AI/AN men; 0.2 percentage points lower for Asian and Pacific Islander men; identical for white women; 0.2 percentage points higher for black women; 1.8 percentage points lower for AI/AN women; and 2.4 percentage points higher for Asian and Pacific Islander women.

⁴MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

⁵Level of alcohol consumption categories are based on self-reported responses to questions about average alcohol consumption and defined as follows: light drinkers: 3 drinks or fewer per week; moderate drinkers: more than 3 drinks and up to 14 drinks per week for men and more than 3 drinks and up to 7 drinks per week for women; heavier drinkers: more than 14 drinks per week for men and more than 7 drinks per week for women. (Most drinking guidelines consider more than 7 drinks per week to be a heavier level of consumption for women. U.S. Department of Agriculture: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2000, 5th edition.)

NOTE: Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III).

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, family core and sample adult questionnaires.